

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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O 160901Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3457

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

COMUSTDC TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

327TH AIR DIVISION TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

S E C R E T TAIPEI 6893

EXDIS, MIL ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, MOPS, TW, CH

SUBJ: MILITARY EXERCISES ON TAIWAN

REF: STATE 253442 (160241Z NOV) (NOTAL)

1. TWO COMBINED US-ROC MILITARY EXERCISES ARE PLANNED
FOR PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND NOV 29:

A. LARK: A ONE-DAY EXERCISE ON NOV 20. FOUR USAF
5-33 TRAINER AIRCRAFT WILL FLY FROM KOREA TO TAIWAN VIA
OKINAWA, PROVIDING INBOUND TARGETS FOR ROC AIR DEFENSE
SYSTEM AND FIGHTERS. THE T-33S WILL APPROACH TAIWAN
FROM THE NE, LAND AT CCK, REFUEL, AND RETURN TO KOREA THE
SAME DAY. NO EAGLE EXERCISE IS PLANNED FOR THIS PERIOD.

B. ASWEX (SHARK HUNT): SCHEDULED FOR NOV 18-22.
ASSETS INVOLVED WILL BE TWO USN DESTROYERS, ONE USN P3
ANTI-SUBMARINE AIRCRAFT FROM NAHA (STAGING FROM TAINAN AB),
AND ONE ROCN SUBMARINE. EXERCISE WILL TAKE PLACE MAXIMUM
OF 21 MILES OFF SHORE, SSW OF KAOHSIUNG.

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WM LARK EXERCISE COULD BE CANCELLED WITH NO GREAT LOSS

OR DIFFICULTY. CANCELLATION OF ASWEX WOULD INVOLVE GREATER PROBLEMS. IT COULD NOT BE RE-SCHEDULED BECAUSE OF PRIOR FLEET COMMITMENTS. USN DERIVES PRIMARY BENEFIT FROM ASWEX, AND WOULD PREFER NOT LOSE THIS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY. TWO SUSN DESTROYERS DUE ARRIVE KAOHSIUNG TOMORROW MORVNING (170001Z NOV). IF ASWEX MUST BE CANCELLED, PREFERABLE TO DO SO PRIOR TO PRE-SAIL CONFERENCE 170500Z NOV. REGARDLESS OF WHATEVER EXPLANATIONS WE MAKE TO GROC, WE WOULD GUESS THAT THEY WILL UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THE ACTUAL REASON FOR CANCELLATION.

3. THESE ARE BOTH ROUTINE EXERCISES WHICH HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED MANY TIMES BEFORE. THEY WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF TAIWAN, AND BOTH WILL BE CONCLUDED WELL BEFORE NOV 25. NEITHER, IN OUR OPINION, HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR BEING PROVOCATIVE, AND WE RECOMMEND THAT THEY NOT RPT NOT BE CANCELLED.

4. WHILE IT IS NOT A COMBINED OR JOINT EXERCISE, F-4S OF THE 327TH AIR DEIVISION FLY DAILY TRAINING FLIGHTS OUT OF CCK OVER TAIWAN AND OVER THE STRAITS SOUTH OF CCK, BETWEEN TAIWAN AND THE PENGHU. STAND-DOWN OF SEVERAL DAYS DURATION WOULD INVOLVE SERIOUS LOSS OF REQUIRED FLIGHT TRAINING, ALTHOUGH FLIGHTS COULD BE DIVERTED TO AREA EAST OF TAIWAN WITH NO DIFFICULTY. 327TH ALSO FLIES A DAILY COASTAL PATROL FLIGHT (2 TO 4 AIRCRAFT) ALONG WEST COAST OF TAIWAN. CANCELLATION OF EITHER THE COASTAL PATROL (WHICH IS CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN 327TH AND ROCAF) OR TRAINING FLIGHTS WOULD BE QUESTIONED BY THE ROC. WE ASSUME THAT THESE FLIGHTS ARE NOT CONSIDERED PROVOCATIVE, AND SHOGULD CONTINUE WITHOUT DISRUPTION.

5. TDC AND 327TH AD CONCUR IN THIS MESSAGE.
UNGER

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